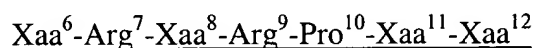


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): ~~A method of treating melanoma, comprising: administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a melanocortin receptor antagonist selective for the MCR-1 receptor, the antagonist being selected from the group consisting of peptide (a), (b), (c), and (d), wherein:~~ comprising a peptide having formula:



~~_____ 6 7 8 9 10 11 12~~

~~_____ (a) is Xaa-Arg-Xaa-Arg-Pro-Xaa-Xaa, where Xaa⁶ is Arg or D-Arg, Ala or D-Ala, Xaa⁸ is Ile or Ala, Xaa¹¹ is Lys or D-Lys, and Xaa¹² is amidated Leu, D-Leu, or Ala, and the Arg in the ninth position may be in the D-Arg stereoconfiguration, and wherein the peptide may have an acylated amino terminus, an anisoylated N-terminus, and/or have an amidated carboxyl terminus;~~

~~_____ (b) is a mystixin having the sequence T_N-A₁-A₂-A₃-A₄-A₅-A₆-T_e, where T_N is an amino terminal portion having a molecular weight less than about 600 daltons and is selected to convey resistance against 20 enzymatic degradation; A₁ is D- or L- arginine and D- lysine; A₂ is lysine or arginine; A₃ is leucine or isoleucine; A₄ is leucine, isoleucine, methionine, or valine; A₅ is methoxybenzoyl-ethyl-Gly, methoxy-benzoylmethyl-D-Ala, Tyr(Me), Trp, Tyr, Leu, Lys, Arg, 4'-substituted Phe (4'F, 4'I, 4'Cl, 4'NO²), D-His, D-Lys, D-Arg, D-Leu, D-Pro, or D-Trp; A₆ is isoleucine; with the proviso that not all of the A₁-A₆ are in the L-configuration; and T_e is isoleucineamide, D-leucineamide, D-valineamide;~~

~~_____ (c) is a compound having the sequence Arg-Tyr-Tyr-Arg-Trp/D-Trp-Lys with the modifications as described in (a); or,~~

~~_____ (d) is dynorphin A(1-13) amide.~~

Claim 4 (Currently amended): ~~The method melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3~~ wherein the peptide is acetylated at the amino terminus.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is amidated at the C-terminus.

Claim 6(Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is anisoylated at the N-terminus.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide ~~administered~~ is encapsulated in a liposomes.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3, wherein the peptide is p-anisoyl-[D-Arg^{6,9}, D-Lys¹¹, D-Leu¹²] dynorphin A(6-12)-NH₂.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).